

REMARKS

Applicant's Attorney thanks Examiner Sue Weaver for the courtesy of the interview held on June 2, 2005. This amendment includes the changes discussed at the interview and is believed to place the case in condition for allowance.

Thus, in accordance with the instant amendment the title has been amended to render same more descriptive of the claimed invention.

Paragraph 2 of the action refers to projection (52), see Figure 4. In accordance with the newly submitted claims the term "button-like" has been deleted. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that corrected drawings are not necessary. This is also believed to obviate the objections in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the action. Applicant notes that, as discussed at the interview, new dependent Claim 24 specifies that the inward projection (52) is rounded, as clearly shown in Figure 4.

Concerning the Examiner's objection that feet (34) have not been shown, as agreed at the interview the identification of feet (34) in Figure 2 will be sufficient.

In accordance with the instant amendment, Claims 1 – 22 have been canceled and new Claims 23 – 42 substituted therefor. Applicant notes that the preform claims have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of a continuation application thereon.

It is respectfully submitted that the newly submitted claims define patentably over the art.

New generic Claim 23 includes the features of previous Claims 2 – 4 and also specifies that the neck finish (16) projects upwardly and inwardly from sidewall (14) and the upper flange (36) extends inwardly of the sidewall (14), all as clearly shown, for example, in Figures 1 and 2. In addition, generic Claim 23 now includes the feature of previous Claim 5, specifying that the inside surface (50) of inwardly extending flange (48) includes an inward projection, see Figure 4.

Dependent claims essentially follow those previously submitted plus the inclusion of additional dependent claims as clearly supported herein.

The cited art is not at all believed to teach or suggest the claims as submitted. Thus, the Greenwood et al. '268 patent forms a stretch blow molded intermediate product (12) which includes an accommodation portion (18). Portion (18) is then removed at an intermediate location leaving a portion of flange (17) integrally connected to body portion (20) to receive a metal closure (14), see Figure 5 and Figures 1 and 2. Applicant's claim features are not at all shown by the '268 patent. For example, the outward flange does not extend inwardly of the sidewall and there is no teaching of Applicant's inward projection.

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Similarly, neither Rashid nor Hallowell suggest Applicant's stepped neck finish as claimed or the inward projection and Holton shows a manifestly dissimilar structure. The other references show similar defects.

Applicant submits that the present invention defines a unique structure that is not fairly suggested by the art. Favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 9, 2005